

Thinking of Respiratory Medicine?

Respiratory Medicine is the diagnosis and management of breathing and lung disorders.

Overview of Respiratory Medicine

Respiratory medicine is a subspecialty of internal medicine, encompassing diseases of the respiratory system, including the upper airway, the lungs, the chest wall and the ventilatory control system. It incorporates knowledge of normal and disordered respiratory structure and function, clinical respiratory diseases and the specialised diagnostic techniques, tests and procedures employed in clinical assessment.

Advances in respiratory medicine have been at the forefront of improvements in health over the last century. In particular, control of tuberculosis was a major milestone in public health in developed countries. Recognition of appropriate dust control measures in a working environment has almost eradicated the incidence of the pneumoconiosis in Australasia, although they remain a problem worldwide. Respiratory medicine has also been at the forefront of the understanding of the molecular basis of disease, particularly in relation to asthma, cystic fibrosis and lung cancer.

Specialty training

Respiratory Medicine Physician training is undertaken through the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP) and consists of:

- a minimum of 36 months of Adult Medicine or Paediatric and Child Health Basic Training followed by
- a minimum of 36 months of Advanced Training in Respiratory Medicine
- work-based learning and assessment requirements.

Trainees may apply to enter the Advanced Training programme if they:

- have completed Adult Medicine or Paediatric and Child Health Basic Training programme
- have successfully completed the RACP Clinical and Written Examinations
- hold current medical registration and
- secured an accredited training position.

All advanced training occurs in supervised clinical placements within RACP accredited sites.

Over the course of the training programme, all trainees must carry out a variety of teaching and learning activities, including work-based learning and assessment requirements, and other programme requirements in consultation with their supervisors.

Once the training is satisfactorily completed, Fellowship of the RACP (FRACP) is awarded.

Respiratory Medicine Advanced Training can also be undertaken as part of Dual Training in Respiratory and Sleep Medicine. This involves:

- 24 months core respiratory medicine training and
- 12 months core sleep medicine training.

The training programme can be completed in Australia and New Zealand and trainees may complete more than one Advanced Training programme at a time.

It is likely that you need to complete placements in multiple DHBs whilst completing vocational training.

Personal qualities required to be a Respiratory Medicine Physician

- fostering of a patient-centred approach to health care
- maintenance of a balanced and broad perspective on health care delivery
- preparedness to learn and adopt new and validated approaches to diagnosis and management, despite logistical difficulties, and to change work practices when appropriate
- willingness to reflect on, and learn from, mistakes
- preparedness to change management plans
- tolerance of uncertainty
- ability to cope with unexpected disappointments, equanimity, resiliency and calmness in the face of challenging clinical demands
- desire to contribute to improvements in the health system
- desire to foster clinical practice, research and teaching in general internal medicine
- preparedness to acknowledge doubt and uncertainty in clinical practice.

Specialty Training Programme Information

Medical College

[Royal Australasian College of Physicians \(RACP\)](#)

Fellowship/Qualification

Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (FRACP)

Application and Selection process

Application/selection [Basic training](#)

Application/selection [Advanced Training in Respiratory Medicine](#)

Contact details New Zealand: RespiratorySleep@racp.org.nz

To find out more about physicians/paediatricians and other specialty areas, [click here](#). This also provides a useful Q&A section.

Resident Medical Officer (RMO) Information

Demand for vocational training posts is currently not available

RMO training registrar positions contracted

Northern	Midland	Central	South Island	Total
6	5	0	1	12

(September 2016 RMO census)

Regions

Northern:

Northland, Waitemata, Auckland, Counties Manukau DHBs

Midland:

Lakes, Tairāwhiti, Bay of Plenty, Waikato, Taranaki DHBs

Central:

Hawke's Bay, Wanganui, MidCentral, Wairarapa, Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley DHBs

South Island:

Nelson Marlborough, Canterbury, South Canterbury, Southern, West Coast DHBs

Senior Medical Officer (SMO) Information

Year	Number of NZ New Fellows
2015	NOT AVAILABLE
2014	NOT AVAILABLE

Average Age of SMOs*	Number registered with the Medical Council *	% of international medical graduates in the workforce*
51	1024	42

Number by Region (September 2016 SMO census)

Northern		Midland		Central		South Island		Total	
FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
13.6	15	7.1	9	10.8	14	3.5	4	35	42

*The number is not separately available but included in the total registered in Internal Medicine.